

§ 590.538

9 CFR Ch. III (1–1–03 Edition)

(b) Requirements. (1) Nonpasteurized egg products which are to be frozen shall be solidly frozen or reduced to a temperature of 10 °F or lower within 60 hours from time of breaking.

(2) Pasteurized egg products which are to be frozen shall be solidly frozen or reduced to a temperature of 10 °F or lower within 60 hours from time of pasteurization.

(3) The temperature of the products not solidly frozen shall be taken at the center of the container to determine compliance with this section.

(c) Containers shall be stacked so as to permit circulation of air around the containers.

(d) The outside of liquid egg containers shall be clean and free from evidence of liquid egg.

(e) Frozen egg products shall be examined by organoleptic examination after freezing to determine their fitness for human food. Any such products which are found to be unfit for human food shall be denatured and any official identification mark which appears on any container thereof shall be removed or completely obliterated and the containers identified as required in §§ 590.840 and 590.860.

§ 590.538 Defrosting facilities.

(a) Approved metal defrosting tanks or vats constructed so as to permit ready and thorough cleaning shall be provided.

(b) Frozen egg crushers, when used, shall be of approved metal construction. The crushers shall permit ready and thorough cleaning and the bearings and housing shall be fabricated in such a manner as to prevent contamination of the egg products.

(c) Service tables shall be of approved metal construction without open seams and the surfaces shall be smooth to allow thorough cleaning.

§ 590.539 Defrosting operations.

(a) Frozen egg products which are to be defrosted shall be defrosted in a sanitary manner.

(b) Each container of frozen eggs shall be checked for condition and odor just prior to being emptied into the crusher or receiving tank. Frozen eggs which have objectionable odors and are unfit for human food (e.g., sour, musty,

fermented, or decomposed odors) shall be denatured.

(c) Frozen whites to be used in the production of dried albumen may be defrosted at room temperature. All other whites shall be defrosted in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Frozen whole eggs, whites and yolks, and yolks may be tempered or partially defrosted for not to exceed 48 hours at a room temperature no higher than 40 °F. or not to exceed 24 hours at a room temperature above 40 °F.: *Provided*, That no portion of the defrosted liquid shall exceed 50 °F. while in or out of the container.

(1) Frozen eggs packed in metal or plastic containers may be placed in running tap water (70 °F or lower) without submersion to speed defrosting.

(2) The defrosted liquid shall be held at 40 °F. or less, except for product to be pasteurized or stabilized by glucose removal as provided in § 590.530. Defrosted liquid shall not be held more than 16 hours prior to processing or drying.

(e) Sanitary methods shall be used in handling containers and removing egg product.

(f) Crushers and other equipment used in defrosting operations shall be dismantled at the end of each shift and shall be washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

(1) Where crushers are used intermittently, they shall be flushed after each use and again before being placed in use.

(2) Floors and work tables shall be kept clean.

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§ 590.540 Spray process drying facilities.

(a) Driers shall be of a continuous discharge type and so constructed and equipped to prevent an excess accumulation of powder in the drier, bags, and powder conveyors.

(b) Driers shall be of approved construction and materials, with welded seams, and the surfaces shall be smooth to allow for thorough cleaning.